

Singing every Thursday at 7:00 PM, Community
United Methodist Church of Olathe

Canyon
Chords

Happy
Thanksgiving

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<http://barbershopsingingmontrose.yolasite.com/>

December 2011

Vol. 27 Number 12

PROBE
BARBERSHOP



Coffin Canyon Chorus coaching conference complete

And it was simply excellent.

4:00 PM: A long productive day wound down. Smiling faces spilled from the doors of DMEA. Groups of happy men interspersed with several lovely women, some laughing, some just making their way to waiting cars to take them back to reality, all seemed pleased with what had just happened. A few shook hands with the reason for the day, a day that began much earlier. 9:00 AM to be exact. The reason's name is John Coffin. John is well known in the circle of 5ths and is revered, and possibly feared by competing quartets. John is the

word, a word not carelessly bantered about if you are on stage in front of him.

The seed for this tree of musical performance knowledge was uncovered in Silverton, deep and secure in Colorado mountains languishing under an umbrella of blue. A lady of impeccable reputation soon presented this seed to a physician of questionable character suggesting that it might grow into an arbor not often seen in Montrose. It was intriguing to say the least. How could this seed be nurtured? Who would water it? Would it require more fertilizer than expected? How much would it cost? How would it be paid for? Some feared a thorny bush might sprout from the innocent seed, while others, older and wiser, gently cultivated this sprig of opportunity until it began to bloom. It was soon planted and bloomed into beautiful foliage with delicate flowers of irresistible aroma.

OK, enough of the 'novel' prose and on with the action. John Coffin did a wonderful job with a chorus needing his help.

Yes, we do sound pretty darned good most of the time, thanks to the efforts and skill of MaryAnn, but there comes a realization when outside eyes and ears are desired. MaryAnn knew that need in July when she first approached John with the idea of doing some 'coaching' for our group. That idea was passed on to President Larry and Show Chairman Dr. Bob with positive reactions. The Board was then involved and some members were less than enthusiastic when the cost of the session was considered in relation to the Chapter's ability to pay. It's no secret that we are not the Denver Mile High or the Vocal Majority, but we do have a few bucks to use when and if needed. So, finally a motion was made and passed to finance a learning session with John, a good decision to say the least.

Thanks to the generosity of Bob and Linda Goodhue, John and his lovely wife Maureen were wined, dined, and lodged at the Goodhue Castle del Arboles. Bob claims they just gave John and Maureen sleeping bags and sent them to the dog house, but

according to John, it was a very nice dog house.

The learning session, attended by most of our Chapter, was genuinely enjoyable. John has evolved into a professional instructor: a credit to our hobby, the Rocky Mountain District, and the Barbershop Harmony Society. John typifies the kind of folks we want to be around when we joined this outfit. We were led and coached with the sensitivity, humor and delicacy needed to keep our interest at a high level in a long day. We learned new ways to learn songs. We learned that barbershop singing is NOT constrained by the notes or timing on paper. Timing and interpretation is what barbershop singing is all about. Singing from the heart is what presentation is all about. As many of we long-term members know, any good song can be made to sound better with appropriate interpretation ... Or to sound worse depending. John has the knowledge and ability, to explain why things work and why they don't when most of us just feel the result. Right brain/left brain difference, I guess.

As is common with most good RMD or BHS sessions, we had appropriate breaks with copious water available. MaryAnn was indispensable, along with her portable keyboard, augmenting John at every turn. She and John fit together like expensive gloves on a debutante at a champagne dinner.

President Larry with help from Carol M took good care of all of us by arranging a great lunch consisting of Subway sandwiches, chips, and wonderful brownies and

cookies for dessert. Our sincere and continued thanks to Sally Wilkinson for all her dessert cooking magic.

One would think it was a long day and it was, but it didn't seem so. It was a GOOD day, one sorely needed by this Chapter just at the right time. Thank you MaryAnn, Larry, Bob, and John for making it happen. And thanks to Bob and Linda Goodhue for saving us guys a buck or two by not having to put John and Maureen up at a cheap motel. I'm sure John and Maureen agree.

Following are comments from those members who attended. We can learn from them ... If we listen.

I thought session was beneficial to chorus members. For me the highlight was how instructor John brought out ways we could better present our program through facial expressions, body language, etc. If we take to heart what we learned we will present a much better show.
Don Weiszbrod

I thought it was a very good session! I personally feel that the timing was good, --John was able to teach some techniques to learn the music and perhaps understand the emotions and the story the song is trying to tell. I don't think we've ever tried to understand the story of a song as our 1st step! Yes, I learned! I don't think the question should be whether or not it will make our show better (it sure can't hurt), the coaching, I'm sure will make us better singers forever! I also think that MaryAnn was sold on the program, --this cost was much less than Harmony College expenses would be and a one-day session makes it workable for everyone! I personally feel that this type of coaching is much better (and more economical for our small chapter) than Harmony College because everyone of our members were able to benefit whereas Harmony College benefits only one person (yes, they are supposed to learn and pass that on to us, but...).

I think it's just what we needed and the timing for our learning curve was good! I'm in favor of sessions like this over sending Director to Harmony College (when that discussion surfaces)
Now, smile, dammit! You can do it! Think of pushing that mud!
Rex

It was very worth while for all of us. The man was sharing his vast knowledge with us, I think he gave all he could in the time he had with us. He gave us some new understandings of how we should go about learning a song. How we should go about presenting a song, think about a new song, study the song, taking the song apart. Yes, it would be nice to have one of these things every three months.

Having said this, please let me say I would not trade our MaryAnn for two of him.
Don Barnett

The reinforcement that John repeatedly gave MaryAnn about her direction of the chorus and her feeling about the music was a very positive thing.

The epenthesis he placed on breathing and singing in phrases was needed.

I'm sure the things we learned will carry through to make a better show.

I hope that when it comes to stagecraft, some of John's suggestions will be picked up.

I even overheard talk about , "wouldn't it be great if we could get John to come over for a final tweaking just before the show". I recognize the problem of economics and don't think it's possible , but a good thought.

Larry W

**MORE
MEMBER
VIEWS OF
THE COFFIN
SESSION AT
DMEA**

BIG ANNOUNCEMENT!

MaryAnn told us that John Coffin would be returning to give us a pre-show tune up on Saturday, March 31, 2012 at **NO CHARGE TO THE CHAPTER**. Any costs will be born by other sources.

I believe Mary Ann got more benefit out of the session than the chorus did. In the long run it will benefit the whole chorus.
.....Anonymous

In general, I felt it very helpful and instructive. Certainly worth the effort to set up. However, we certainly could have gotten much more out of the session if we had been prepared. It is shameful that we take so much time to get off the music. We should have had at least 4 of our new songs off music so John could have worked more on interpretation and presentation, his strong suits. We did learn a lot and will be able to use that info to improve our annual show. Thanks to all the loyal members that gave up a Saturday to work on songs. A great turnout.
Tom Chamberlain

I felt the day was well spent and appreciate John being so helpful with his instruction. Certainly our image to the audience is important and there is a lot in this image area I know little about.

It would have been nice if the songs were memorized by all of us. It would seem that perhaps having John instruct us when we are a little closer to concert time would help. At that time, all members should have their songs memorized. Then we could apply our time better and not have to look at the music.

All In all it was a good day, well organized and helpful. Lets do it again.

Cheers,
Hank

Never, under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night

**My wife and I had words,
But I didn't get to use mine.**

**I was always taught to respect my elders,
But it keeps getting harder to find one.**

God made man before woman so as to give him time to think of an answer for her first question.

NOTICE:

If you want to know what is going on with our 2012 Show, visit that page for all the latest information. Access it from the members only page on our website. Get used to using it and you will be informed.

*Some days you are the dog,
Some days you are the tree*

A closed mouth gathers no foot

CANYON CHORDS is the official monthly publication of the Black Canyon Barbershop Chorus known as the Montrose, Colorado, chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Opinions stated in this bulletin are not necessarily those of the Chapter, the Editor, or possibly even the stated author.

2011 CHAPTER OFFICERS

(Term expires 12/31 in year shown after office)

PRESIDENT (2011)

Larry Wilkinson 240-1801

SECRETARY (2012)

Chuck Frush 249-0543

TREASURER (2012)

Rex Pierson 323-6670

PROGRAM VP (2011)

Don Barnett 249-3241

MEMBERSHIP VP (2012)

Kevin Cohenour 964-4775

PUBLIC RELATIONS VP (2011)

Dennis Olmstead 249-4099

MUSIC VP (2011)

David Stannard 249-8029

VP PUBLICATIONS/COMMUNICATIONS (???)

Bill Sutton 874-9280

CHAPTER HISTORIAN (appointed)

Tom Chamberlain 249-9105

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE (1 yr terms)

Bob Brethouwer 209-1804

Dan Baer 240-9677

Don Weiszbrod 874-7817

MUSICAL DIRECTOR:

MaryAnn Rathburn

Tom Chamberlain, Emeritus

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Carol Morrell

SUNSHINE GUY (appointed)

Rex Pierson 323-6670

Splinters from the Board

Whoever had the idea of having a dinner before at the HorseFly Brewery should get an award. Nothing like a beer or two to make any Board meeting less boring.

Larry said he is having a problem getting a place to have out Installation Banquet as the Holiday Inn Express has succumbed to the corporate whims and will no longer trade their banquet room for a \$100 donor listing. So, Larry and Dennis and Tim are still looking. As you might have guessed, we don't have a budget item for this expense.

Carol said she would contact a local florist about roses for our Valentine's Day singouts. Real roses is a real good idea. Larry is still looking for someone to step in and to the leg work necessary to pull the whole thing off. Lots of work. Not much appreciation. So, do you want to do it? Call Larry.

Dr. Bob's Show name came under fire. Some think his name is lame and would not bring in the youth. Using a 'Date Night' theme may do better. Kids know about dates. But using the memory of the backseat of a '57 Chevy may be outdated. Kids wouldn't have a clue what it meant.

This meeting was held at Larry Wilkinson's house because Rex was out galavanting somewhere with someone ... Or not. Of course, Sally had prepared for the onslaught and we all were rewarded for attending by more Sally wonderfood. Sorry, Rex. You missed it. Don't know where the next meeting will be held. Check our Google calendar for details.

Excellent turnout. Carol M. Showed up and promised to show up at every board meeting in the future. I don't think she knows what said really said ... Or meant it.

John Taylor affirmed his previous weak moment and said he really would take on the responsibility of counting and submitting CARA points to the RMD CARA guy, whoever it might be. But John needs you guys to help him. He will tell you how.

Dr. Bob pushed his idea for a VLQ or some variation to appear on our show. Be thinking about it. Really. Think.

Dr. Bob wonders if we get different color ties, would we look like we had a new outfit? How about white ties? Or Red? Or purple? Or green for Christmas? Wow, what a concept!

No motions were made so none were passed.



Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does

DOPELER EFFECT: The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.

Good judgment comes from bad experience...and most of that comes from bad judgment

It's not too late to be concerned about selling tickets to our April show. Don't let this be the same excuse used last year.



By Stan "Stasch" Sperl
Waukesha County,
Wisconsin

Ho hum....it's ticket selling time again. Seems like every time I turn around, it's time to go out and sell those lousy show tickets again. I sure get tired of trying to sell those darned things, but suppose I'll have to go out and pester my neighbors again.

With that sort of attitude, few tickets will be sold by that barbershopper. In all probability, he'll knock on his neighbor's door and say, "Hi Neville, you aren't interested in buying any tickets to our show are you?" Come show night, he'll turn in his remaining tickets and say, "Just sold to my wife—no one else was interested—sorry!"



Tim Davis	Nov 16
Dan Baer	Nov 29
Jason Ward	Dec 6
Phil Plumb	Dec 9
John Taylor	Dec 14

If your birthday has not been mentioned, it's because I don't know about it. Let me know and your birthday will be honored.

We don't stop singing because we get old, we get old because we stop singing.

No one is in charge of your happiness but you



2012 AFTERGLOW

If you have been wondering about where and if we will have an afterglow next year, put your mind at ease. Bob Goodhue, the Chairman for finding an afterglow location announced he has made specific contact with the new owner/managers of Remingtons at the Bridges. He said they are willing and excited about hosting our afterglow on April 28, 2012. A quick poll of those present at this particular Thursday evening practice indicated that most members were comfortable with a door cost of \$10 to cover the food and venue. Based on anticipated costs, no FREE member or wife admission is expected, but it will be discussed at future board meetings as more information is gathered.

**Chapter Registered
Quartets**

Blue Denim

Contact: Chuck Frush 249-0543

FOURMATA

Contact: Bill Sutton 874-9280

Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.

DEL-ROSE USO SHOW

It's not often a Delta show is as successful as a Montrose show, partly because of the differences in population. However, the Del-Rose Chapter proved that it is possible. For the first time in history, the gals put on TWO shows in Delta and none in Montrose. Both were well attended and received.

Some of the guys in our chapter were not enthused to be a part of the Del-Rose Show, probably because it was not held in their community. Supporting Delta activities has not been a priority of our chapter. There is a history of less successful attempts in our past with lingering feelings that doing anything in Delta or Cedaredge is a waste of time. However a recent influx of 'new' members has modified some of the negativity and we were a visible and important part of the lady's show. And, for myself, I am glad we did.

We had a good Black Canyon Chorus turn-out on Saturday afternoon with mostly good sounds on stage. Credit goes to the Del-Rose Chapter as the Show was well done and conceived. Our step-in director, Bob Goodhue, tackled the task of last minute massaging song interpretation with limited success. The moral

here is that old dogs don't learn as fast as the new master would like. No matter, both performance went well. A full audience seemed pleased with our two songs, and so were we.

Some of the day guys went home and a few night guys came around for the evening job with promised food following. As might have been anticipated, we sounded differently with different guys on stage. Not a lot, but enough to be noticed. The guys did, though, get the limited choreography for "Zip a Dee Do Dah" pretty much correct in the evening. Even the passionate attempts to explain the difference between 'left' and 'right' by Dave Christian at a Thursday practice was not totally successful. But close.

The gals did a wonderful job in preparing and presenting a very enjoyable show, actually two shows. The humor of Aaron Clay and Jerry Sanders certainly added to the show, and, I think having

our guys participate didn't hurt either.

The afterglow, held in the same large Delta Christian Church auditorium as the show, went very well. Everyone had their opportunity to trash what ever was left of their vocal chords while scarfing the lady-prepared finger foods. One of the vocal treats was an appearance of a no-longer



Fourmata singing "Bring Him Home"

active but still viable quartet "Sound Production." These guys, Phil Plumb, Sam Kevan, Bob Goodhue, and Larry Cooper, still sound good. The audience was thrilled to hear them again.

All in all it was a great way to spend a Saturday. We may get a few more folks to see us in April because of our effort.

FOURMATA had the pleasure of singing with a very talented Olathe High School Junior at the Veteran's appreciation ceremony on Thursday, November 10. Bethany Hines sang a solo and then with the guys on the Joe Lyles overlay "America the Beautiful." It was an excellent ceremony and the talents emerging at Olathe HS are staggering. Two sisters blew the roof off with a duet between a flute and a fiddle. Absolutely amazing. Between Bethany's singing and Roth sisters Josie and Kate playing a flute and fiddle, there was not a dry eye in the house. We are so proud to have been a part of it. By the way, the Olathe Choir was EXCELLENT. They performed a very difficult song with perfection. The one boy in the choir may, just may come to one or two of our practices to see what barbershop music is all about. If he does, make him welcome. Young voices are our future.

Have you ever read the Code of Ethics printed on the back side of your membership card?

CODE OF ETHICS

The Society aspires to preserve for its members and for all future generations of members the sacred right of men to seek haven from the burden of their daily cares through indulgence in old-fashioned vocal quartet harmony, and to that end we do hereby solemnly pledge ourselves to abide by the precepts of the Code of Ethics.

1. We shall do everything in our power to perpetuate the Society.
2. We shall deport ourselves and conduct the Society's functions in such manner as to reflect credit upon the Society and its membership.
3. We shall conform in all aspects to the bylaws of the Society and the rules from time to time promulgated by its Society Board of Directors.

4. We shall accept for membership only congenial men of good character who love harmony in music or have a desire to harmonize.

5. We shall exhibit a spirit of good fellowship toward all members.

6. We shall refrain from forcing our songs upon unsympathetic ears. We shall not use our membership for personal gain.

7. We shall not use our membership in the Society for personal gain.

8. We shall not permit the introduction of political, religious or other similar controversial issues into the affairs of the Society.

9. We shall by our stimulus to good music and vocal harmony, endeavor to spread the spirit of harmony throughout the world.

10. We shall render all possible altruistic service through the medium of barbershop harmony.

Generally speaking, you aren't learning much when your lips are moving.



Make Reservations Now for Midwinter!

Come to sunny Tucson for the 2012 Midwinter Convention January 17-22, 2012, and tack on a few days before or after to enjoy the unique beauty of southern Arizona! Visit Saguaro National Park, play some golf, check out an old cowboy movie set, and just feast your eyes on the scenery along Arizona's highways! Housing reservations are now available. The best rooms will go fast, and Tucson in particular may be a sell-out, so make your reservations now!

We can't wait to see how many young men will take part in the Fifth Annual Youth Chorus Festival - the entries are starting to pour in now!

It's always a treat to enjoy the Seniors Quartet Championship. Register at TUCSON MIDWINTER.

Thoughts from Sutton.

Everybody has their own reason to show up Thursday night. Some come because it is better than watching the dumb TV and some need to get away for a cup and a cookie. Some come for the friendship and camaraderie. Some come because they love to sing anything. Some come because they love to sing barbershop harmony. Those who are most happy singing barbershop harmony seem to sing for different reasons than rappers, soloists, and others. I think, and that is a dangerous word, I think that most barbershoppers sing because ringing a minor 7th chord gives us a feeling totally differently than just singing. Otherwise we would just sing. Generally we sing because we like the 4-part harmony sound we can generate with 3 other guys, or 30 other guys. It makes us feel good. If we were happy with the sound we make alone, we would sing alone. If we like to sing in a group like the Church choir, we would sing in a Church choir.

There is another side of barbershop singing, one that we may try to ignore, or if not ignored, a side not really understood. That is that when we sing in front of an audience, we really sing for THEIR benefit, not ours. Often we fail to recognize that there are reasons why we sing for our own benefit and reasons why we sing for the audience. Understanding that difference may help explain why it is do darned difficult to get our chorus to smile, to move, or to show the 'proper' emotion. Some of our younger competition quartets are hooked on singing for the audience. That is where they get their enjoyment ... And money. Too often we confuse singing for our own enjoyment with singing for the audience enjoyment. They are not the same thing. It is a difficult transition

To see more pictures from our DMEA Coffin session, visit our website and check the "Chorus" page.



John Coffin working hard to get us to work

to make simply because most of us joined the society for our OWN enjoyment. Often it is painful to be encouraged to do things we find uncomfortable just to please the audience.

Along with smiling and moving and showing our emotions, the songs we sing to entertain the audience are not necessarily the songs we sing because we like to sing them. It hit me during the Coffin session, not that John hit me but may have wanted to. It hit me that some of the songs we are learning for the 2012 Show are not the kind of songs I enjoy singing. You may enjoy singing them, and that is fine. But I don't. For example, I really like to sing "Meet Me Tonight in Dreamland" because it has so many chords that just make the hair stand up on the back of my neck. Is it an audience song? No, I don't think so.

Conversely, I don't enjoy singing "The Longest Time" because the bass is boring, redundant and not fun. But will the audience enjoy it? Probably. There is no doubt in my mind it is more pleasurable to listen to than to

sing this song. Unless you are a Bari, in which case it make no difference.

So, there is a difference. And when we are forced to learn songs we don't like, we have to remember we are learning them for the benefit of the audience and, in the end for. our own benefit. Otherwise we would not have to have enough revenue to continue to do what we like to do.

Take a look at all the songs we are now considering for our next show and, in your own mind decide which songs you like to sing and which are intended to please the audience. Once you have done this, you may be more tolerant about the ones you don't care about.

Just for fun make up three categories: fun to sing, fun to listen to, and both. Then take all the songs we do and place them in the category that best fits for you. At best it will help you understand how you feel about each song. Or it might be a total waste of time. I do a lot of that.

From the underground writer

.....
 Last week the Black Canyon Chorus had two gigs. One outing was on Veterans Day and the other on Saturday, a harvest dinner. Both times we pulled together a very large quartet.

The first event was to sing the Star Spangled Banner for a Veterans event in Montrose. As usual it was November 11 at 11, but this year 11/11/11. MaryAnn was not available; we winged it with Cooper leading. It went well with the National Anthem, Battle Hymn of the Republic and Irish Blessing. Boy was it cold up there.

The event was the usual row of flags, set out chairs, speaker, bugle guy etc. A local SNJ Navy Training plane and two fellows who own small sport planes made a run at the group from the valley pulling up at the last second. I bet they look forward to that all year.

Two weeks ago a lady in charge of "entertainment" for a church harvest dinner came to our practice session and asked if we could do a few numbers for their event. How could we refuse because we use their church each week. Heck we even use their fridge to store our coffee creamer, and sometimes even "borrow" their coffee.

We assembled in front where the church only to find out no one brought a pitch pipe. You have to be barbershopper to know what a disaster that is! (Stannard forgot his pitch pipe? Wow! Ed.)

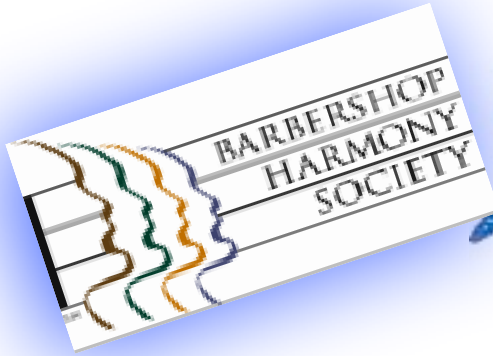
After some heated discussion about who had the best natural pitch, (Chuck was certain he did), to try to tune or not etc., our director MaryAnn said "well guys, why don't we just use the piano in the church".

She was very pleased how well our small group belted out our usual sing out songs. Earlier she had drilled us on "not loud, listen, blend, stand tall, and watch me".

Many church members listened from the Community Room. In Olathe a pot-luck is a certain way to get people together. Following our performance the VLQ quartet moved to the community room and participated in turkey, ham, deserts etc.

Thanks guys for last weekend sing outs, and thanks the Church for the dinner.

.....



Teach the Children to Sing

Stamp here

CHAPTER MISSION STATEMENT
"Flourishing and growing as individuals, as a chorus, and as a chapter by singing in an atmosphere of musical excellence and by promoting harmony in our lives, our relationships, and our community."

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The President's Corner with Larry Wilkinson

The Chapter is to be commended for it's response to all the activities we have had this past month.

We can continue to raise the bar in our attitude and performance where we will be in greater demand and our reputation will be such that it will be easier to sell tickets to upcoming events. Take pride, and accept a grateful

pat on the back to all.



INTAXICATON: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.

It's frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions...